

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 IO-14 DRC-01 AID-20 /125 W

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R 231133Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8668

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 3230

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: SOUVANNA COMMENTS ON LAO FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDER PGNU

1. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE, APRIL 23, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA, IN AN INTERVIEW APRIL 23 WITH A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT STATED THAT, "THIS TIME, THE CHANCES OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION ARE MUCH GREATER THAN BEFORE (BECAUSE) THE POLITICAL CLIMATE AT HOME IS BETTER. IF WE FAILED THE FIRST TIME, IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. IF WE FAILED THE SECOND TIME, IN SPITE OF AMERICAN APPROVAL, IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF CERTAIN PERSONS THAT WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN THEIR OWN PERSONAL CONCERNS. BUMPQSRUDPRLCN THESE TWO FACTORS HAVE DISAPPEARED." SOUVANNA ADDED: "WE HAVE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING, REUNITED ALL THE LAO PEOPLE. THEY ARE LAO ABOVE ALL ELSE, AND I AM COUNTING ON EVERYONE'S PATRIOTISM TO ACHIEVE THE FINAL RESTORATION OF PEACE IN OUR COUNTRY. AS FAR AS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE

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INFILTRATIONS INTO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES CONCERNED,

THAT DOES NOT CONCERN US. WE CAN DO NOTHING TO OPPOSE THEM SHOULD THEY OCCUR."

3.

"HE INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN LAO FOREIGN POLICY. HE NOTED THAT IN TERMS OF FOREIGN AID, THE NEW GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO "GET IN CONTACT WITH MOSCOW AS WELL AS PEKING IN ORDER TO RECEIVE UNCONDITIONAL AID, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN TO SAY THAT ASSISTANCE FROM THE WEST WILL BE DIMINISHED."

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF CHINESE ROAD-BUILDING TROOPS IN NORTHWEST LAOS, SOUVANNA REPLIED THAT "ALL FOREIGN TROOPS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM LAOS BY JUNE 4."

5. QUESTIONED ABOUT POSSIBLE RECOGNITION OF THE "PRG" IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND "GRUNK" IN CAMBODIA, THE PRIODTZALVEUF RESPONDED, "WE HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED AT THAT POINT. AT THIS TIME, WE HAVE RECOGNIZED THE

SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE THESE TWO GOVERNMENTS SIGNED WITH US THE TWO GENEVA ACCORDS OF 1954 AND 1962. WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE POLITICAL PARTIES, BUT ONLY GOVERNMENTS INSTALLED IN CAPITALS."
WHITEHOUSE

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